



OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

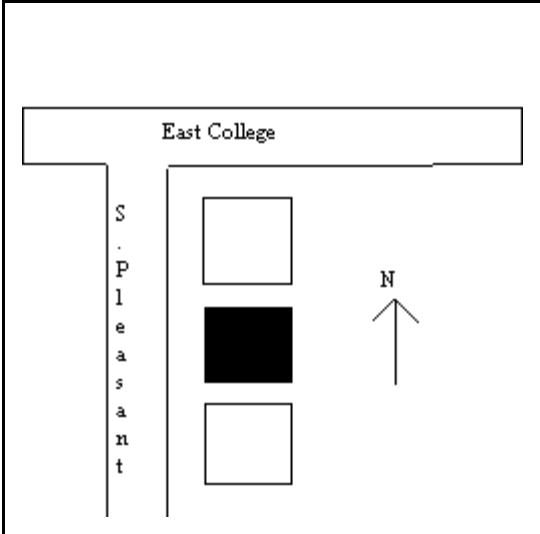
RPR Number:

1. No. LOR-02200-21		4. Present Name(s) Rental Property		LOR-0220 0-21
2. County Lorain		5. Historic or Other Name(s) Martin-Rowley-Stoops House		
6. Specific Address or Location 15 South Pleasant		19a. Design Sources		Lorain 2. County
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number 0900086106002		20. Contractor or Builder		
7. City or Village Oberlin		21. Building Type or Plan Four-over-Four		4. Present or Historic Name(s) Rental Property
9. U.T.M. Reference Quadrangle Name: Oberlin 17 398296 4571795 Zone Easting Northing		22. Original Use, if apparent Single Dwelling Multiple Dwelling		
10. Classification: Building		23. Present Use RESIDENTIAL/DOMESTIC		15 South Pleasant
11. On National Register? NO		24. Ownership Private		
13. Part of Established Hist. Dist? NO		25. Owner's Name & Address, if known Vieira Alex Properties, LLC		15 South Pleasant
15. Other Designation (NR or Local)		26. Property Acreage 0.09		
16. Thematic Associations: Residential Apartment Building		27. Other Surveys		15 South Pleasant
17. Date(s) or Period ca. 1895		28. No. of Stories Two and a half story		
17b. Alteration Date(s) unknown		29. Basement? Yes		15 South Pleasant
18. Style Class and Design		30. Foundation Material Stone bearing		
Element No academic style - Vernacular		31. Wall Construction Balloon/western/platform frame		15 South Pleasant
Element Queen Anne		32. Roof Type Gable Roof Material Imbricated slate (shapes)		
18a. Style of Addition or Elements(s)		33. No. of Bays 3 Side Bays 4		15 South Pleasant
19. Architect or Engineer		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) Aluminum or vinyl siding		
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued on Reverse if Necessary)		35. Plan Shape Square		15 South Pleasant
This vernacular house has a side gable front, a hipped roof section in the rear, and a later addition further to the rear. The first floor windows and the slate roof have elements of Queen Anne style, but the rest of this house is rather plainly ornamented, due to the alterations caused by vinyl siding. The house is two and a half stories tall and has a rough-cut sandstone foundation. A porch on the front of the house faces west and may be historic but not original to the house. Modern cement steps lead up to the porch. The roof of the porch is hipped and covered with asphalt shingles. What appears to be the original central front door is on the first floor. In the top half of the door is a large pane of textured glass, surrounded by column molding. A textured glass transom is also above the door. Windows on each side of the door each have a large single pane with a transom of small, colored, square stained glass lights. The second floor of the front of the house has three identical and symmetrical 1/1 double hung windows. There is a gabled dormer centered in the half-story above the second floor. The dormer has tripled 1/1 double hung windows with a continued...		36. Changes associated with 17/17b Dates: 17. Original/Most significant construct 17b. Some alteration		
43. History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if necessary)		37. Window Type(s) 1 over 1 Stained glass/painted		15 South Pleasant
This house was home to several prominent businessmen of Oberlin, as well as single families, extended families, and boarders. This house was built sometime prior to 1895, when the first residents, the Martins, are listed in city directories. An Oberlin News article in 1891 announced that H. J. Martin's new house had been plastered and carpenters were coming to do wood work. However, it is unknown if the article is referring to H. J. Martin, Sr. or Jr.'s house. In addition, an 1893 Sanborn fire insurance map indicates an older outbuilding of another property still standing on this site at that time. The house is first listed in the 1895 Oberlin city directory and appears on Sanborn maps first in 1897. Henry J. Martin, Sr., was an English immigrant and resident of Ohio since 1833. continued...		38. Building Dimensions 30' x 55'		
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52)		39. Endangered? NO By What?		15 South Pleasant
This house is located in a row of residential properties and faces a business area across the street.		40. Chimney Placement Center		
45. Sources of Information		41. Distance from & Frontage on Road 25'		15 South Pleasant
O-High Alumni, Internet, http://www.oberlin-high.org , Accessed December 2010; City Directories, Oberlin Heritage Center Resource Center; Holsworth, Pat. Oberlin Pioneer Database; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; Gordon, Stephen C. 'How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory.' Columbus: Ohio Historical Society, 1992; McAlester, Virginia and Lee. 'A Field Guide to American Houses.' New York: Alfred K. Knopf Inc., 2000; 'Alumni Register: Graduates and Former Students, Teaching and Administrative continued...		51. Condition of Property: Good/Fair		
46. Prepared By: Liz Schultz		52. Historic Outbuildings & Dependencies Structure Type		15 South Pleasant
47. Organization: Oberlin Heritage Center		Date		
48. Date Recorded: 12/31/2010		Associated Activity		15 South Pleasant
49. PIR Reviewer:		53. Affiliated Inventory Numbers Historic (OHI) Archaeological (OAI)		
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8. Site Plan with North Arrow

54. Farmstead Plan :



Door Selection:
Single centered

Door Position:
Flush

Orientation:
Lateral axis

Symmetry:
Bilateral symmetry

Report Associated With Project:

NADB #:



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42. *Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Con't)*

wood surround. The front, or western, section of the north elevation of the house is side-gabled and has two 1/1 double hung windows on the first and second floors. Paired 1/1 double hung windows are in the attic gable. The back section of the house is slightly wider than the gable section and so the north elevation has an angled cut-away linking the two sections. The angled wall has a 1/1 double hung window on the first and second floors. The north wall of the back section has one 1/1 double hung window asymmetrically arranged on the first and second floors. There is also a wide single pane window with a colored block transom that matches the front windows. This back section ends with a slight overhang approximately 6 feet about the ground. The south side of the front gable section has one 1/1 double hung window and one casement window that is probably a replacement. The second floor has two 1/1 double hung windows. The attic has paired 1/1 double hung windows. The south side of the back section of the house has a 1/1 double hung window on the second floor and a corner entry that juts out from the southeast corner of the house on the first floor. This entry has an asphalt hipped roof and non-historic wooden stairs. The wooden door faces west and on the southern wall a single window has six lights. The one-story addition at the rear of the house has a flat roof with a metal rail around the top. Except for the rear addition, the house has a slate roof arranged in two horizontal bands of square slate shingles on each side of a middle band of fish-scale slates. A chimney at the front part of the house is slightly off-center to the south. The chimney in the back section is within the roof surface.

43. *History and Significance (Con't)*

According to his obituary, Martin had, by the time of his death, amassed a small fortune from bank stocks, mortgages, and real estate, which was comprised of a large number of properties in Oberlin and land in Royalton, Ohio. He resided at 15 S. Pleasant for the years of 1895 and 1896 with his daughter, Mrs. Mary R. Craddock. In 1897 the house was likely rented out to Albert Jones and his wife, Lettie, a dressmaker. By 1899, Henry J. Martin, Sr. resumed residency at the location, until his death on January 22, 1900. His grandson, Nathan, and his wife Edith, were living with him then. Nathan, at that point, was a photographer; however, he later became the hotel proprietor of the Oberlin Tavern (which he renamed the Martin Inn in 1912), a position he held until 1945 when he handed over management to his son, Bob (who named it the Martin Hotel). It stood on East College Street and was a popular restaurant in the 1950s. It has since been demolished. From June of 1900 to 1902, according to city directories and census data, Mr. Francis Bark, a farmer, and his wife, Ellen, who was Henry Martin, Sr.'s other daughter, lived at 15 S. Pleasant. By 1904, Philip H. Martin (apparently unrelated to the previous Martins), a hackman and later a taxi-driver, his wife Mary, and their three children, along with Julius Solomon, a shoemaker, were residing at this house. After Julius Solomon's brief residency here, he went on to open up the successful Oberlin Shoe Repair Store at 91 S. Main Street, for which he received much accolade, as stated in the Oberlin News-Tribune. In all likelihood the aforementioned people were renting, as Ellen Bark is again listed as a resident in the city directory of 1907, along with two others, Eva Leslie, and a Mrs. Richmond, probably both boarders. Ellen then appears to have moved back to her hometown of Royalton, Ohio, where she died at her daughter's home in 1914. Clara Pay, a milliner, and her husband Fred, a butcher, and one son, occupied the home for some period of time around 1910, according to census data. The next known occupants in 1916 were Lydia J. Rowley and her daughter Katherine Maria. Lydia, a strict Congregationalist, lived in the house until her death in April of 1922. The ownership of the house must have gone to Katherine at this point and she is listed as a resident consistently from 1927 until May of 1952, when she died of natural causes at the home. According to the O-High Alumni website, Miss Katherine M. Rowley came to Oberlin first in 1880 at the age of seven with her mother. She graduated from Oberlin High School and Oberlin College. She received her Ph.B. from the University of Chicago afterwards. She then taught English and Latin in Puerto Rico, in areas in the south, in Michigan, and twelve years in Cleveland public schools and eight years in Lorain public schools. She retired in 1938. It is evident that Katherine often either rented out the house completely or individual rooms, as over the years families or individuals are listed as occupants for brief periods of time. This is further strengthened by Oberlin News-Tribune articles in the 1940s that mention Katherine as being away for periods of up to two years, usually in Boston, Massachusetts. Residents in the period of Katherine's ownership, likely either renters or boarders, with approximate dates of residency are: Clara Tichel in 1916; Mr. Alvin Jones, a florist, and his family in 1920; Althale McClew and her two daughters in 1929; George Standish, a salesman, and his wife and son in 1929 and 1930; Molly Ruth Ludwig, a stenographer at the time, and later, assistant manager at the Apollo Theater, in 1933; Mr. Gilbert Osmer, a paint foreman at Oberlin College, and his wife, Alma, in 1935 and 1936; Lucius Garvin, an instructor at Oberlin College, later a Professor of Philosophy from 1939 to 1952, in 1937; Mr. John Bentley, a carpenter, and his wife Elsie from 1939 to 1942; Miss Pauline Dunn in 1943; and Mitchele Meredith, an operator at Northern Ohio Telephone, Jean France, a graduate assistant of Fine Arts at the college, and Priscilla Reed, a teacher at Garford Elementary, all in 1948. After Katherine Rowley's death in 1952 the house was likely put on the market. By 1956 Mrs. Gertrude A. Stoops lived at 15 S. Pleasant. In 1961, Marie Haulk, an employee at Haulk's Nursing Home, resided there with Mrs. Stoops. In the early seventies, Gertrude's son Charles and his wife Ann were occupants. In the 1980s Abby Weinstein and Monte B. Clayton lived here. According to the Lorain County Auditor's website, Richard Huber owned the house by 1991, possibly until 1998 when it was sold to Eric and Amy Spieth. From 2004 to 2006, Ryan Rose owned the house. In 2006, the house was purchased by the current owner, Vieira Alex Properties LLC of Medina.

44. *Description of Environment and Outbuildings (Con't)*

45. *Sources (Con't)*

Staff, (1833-1960).¹ Oberlin: Oberlin College, 1961; Lorain County Auditor Property Record, Internet, <http://www.loraincounty.com/auditor/index.shtml>, Accessed December 2010; 'H. J. Martin, Sr.,' Oberlin News, 22 January 1900, p. 1, c. 2; Untitled, Oberlin News, 6 March 1912, p. 6, c. 1; 'Mrs. Ellen Bark,' 11 March 1914, p. 5, c. 3; 'Mrs. Lydia Rowley,' Oberlin News, 19 April 1922, p. 1 c. 6; 'Julius Solomon has a Fine Record of for Good Work,' Oberlin News-Tribune, 21 March 1935, p. 8, c. 4; 'Village Briefs,' Oberlin News-Tribune, 18 June 1942, p. 5; 'Village Briefs,' Oberlin News-Tribune, 19 July 1945, p. 5; 'Bob Martin to Manage Martin Hotel,' Oberlin News-Tribune, 4 October 1945, p. 3; 'Miss Katherine Maria Rowley,' The Chronicle-Telegram, 26 May 1952; 'New Buildings,' Oberlin News, 30 July 1891.